

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1888.

Can the Council Issue Bonds?

Among conservative people there is a well settled prejudice against a permanent debt. Such people are asking whether the new law permits the issuing of bonds. So far the pay-as-you-go policy has been popular. Under it the town has prospered. Improvements have been made with sufficient speed, and there has been no interest to pay. Will this policy be changed? Two clauses of the law should be considered:

After enumerating the purposes for which the Council can appropriate money—I. Lighting; II. Police; III. Fire Department; IV. Regulating, cleaning and keeping in repair streets and highways; V. Repairs to Public Buildings; VI. Poor; VII. Water; VIII. Interest on debt; IX. Sinking Fund; X. Incidental Expenses; XI. Schools—the law provides that "no appropriations shall be made or ordered for any other purpose, except by a majority of the voters of the town voting at an annual town election." The majority of the voters of the town then may at an annual election make an appropriation for the construction of roads or for sidewalks as they now do, and our present road and sidewalk policy be continued, or a new plan may be adopted.

Upon the application of one-third of the owners of property fronting on the improvement desired, the Council may, following rules strictly laid down, lay out streets, grade, flag, macadamize, pave, curb, gutter, or otherwise improve them. Upon a similar application sewers may be constructed.

The Council will be stopped, however, from making any of these improvements if the owners of the property subject to more than one-half of the assessments for the improvement shall remonstrate against the same being made. The cost of improvements is borne by the owners of property benefited, except if the total assessable benefits exceed the total cost, the excess shall be borne and paid by the town at large.

These provisions are in conformity with the best laws upon the statute-books for the government of cities. Improvement certificates, payable within one year or less, may be issued during the progress of the work.

The law permitting the issue of bonds is as follows: The Council shall have the power to issue bonds payable in not exceeding ten years, and bearing interest at not exceeding six per centum per annum, to raise moneys to pay for lands taken for opening, or extending, or widening streets, constructing roads or building sewers, or for the redemption of improvement certificates issued under this act, or to pay any judgment recovered against the town; and the council may likewise issue bonds to run not exceeding ten years and bearing interest at not exceeding six per centum per annum, to renew such part of the bonded debt of the municipality of which the town is the successor, which may become due and payable, and for the payment of which no provision shall have been made. We have given the section in full. The latter part does not apply here at all. The other is not a general power to issue bonds, but only for certain purposes, and under very careful restrictions. It does not seem dangerous to commit this power to any Council likely to be elected.

Watessing.

—Rev. Elbert Clement will preach sermons appropriate to Christmas Day on Sunday, morning and evening. The Sunday School celebration will be held on Christmas night.

St. Paul's P. E. Church Sunday School will hold their Christmas celebration on Wednesday evening, the 26th inst.

—The "jumper" used by Active Hose Company is at the blacksmith shop undergoing repairs. It was badly damaged while being taken to the fire in Glen Ridge last Friday morning.

—The water in the lake which formed at the junction of Watessing avenue and Orange street on Monday, found its way into several neighboring cellars doing considerable damage.

—The annual ball of the Watessing Brass Band, held in Motz's Hall last Friday night, was well attended and passed off very pleasantly.

—Presiding Elder Van Benachoten met with the official board of the Watessing M. E. Church on Friday evening the occasion being the third quarterly conference. The church, under the able pastorate of Rev. Elbert Clement, is still enjoying prosperity. The Sunday School is unusually well attended. The lack of suitable rooms for conducting the classes composed of adults is a much felt want, and will continue to be so until a new structure is erected. The growth of this section of the town will soon necessitate this. A committee has the matter in charge but no definite steps will be taken until the congregation feel assured that they can go ahead with a creditable structure.

The trustees of the Watessing Free Public Library have placed a "protector" around the trunk of the tree in front of their building. The contrivance was built so that it could be utilized also as an advertising bulletin. The first placards tacked upon it were those advertising the Pison Post lecture. They were put up on Saturday night and on the following

Sunday night some malicious scamp tore them down. The person or persons who perpetrated the mischief rendered themselves liable to prosecution. Some of these days these mischievously disposed persons will be brought to realize that it does not pay to presume too far on the good nature of the trustees.

—Workmen are engaged making the much needed repairs to the platform of the D. L. & W. R. R. depot at Watessing.

—The organization of an Improvement Association in Watessing similar to those established in Fairview and Sil or Lake, is urged by a number of residents and a call for a meeting will soon be issued. The following are some of the objects it is proposed to strive to accomplish and which it is conceded can only be brought about by concerted action on the part of the people: The remedying of the bad condition of the streets at the junction of Watessing avenue and Dodd street; the proper drainage of property on Lawrence, Orange and Cross streets; the establishment of a Post Office; a protest against the detrimental discrimination on the part of the D. L. & W. R. R. against this place; the macadamizing of Watessing avenue from the depot to Bloomfield avenue; to abate the nuisance caused in connection with the East Orange sewerage disposal works; to secure police services; to attend to the construction and repairs of sidewalks; to secure the construction of a short avenue along the line of the D. L. & W. R. R. from Orange street to Willow street, so that vehicles can be driven from one to the other without having to make two crossings of the railroad track; to force adherence to the sanitary laws of the township. The incorporation of a building society is another matter that will receive attention. A suitable hall for public meetings is a much felt want. These several objects it is believed can be accomplished if public interest and co-operation are thoroughly aroused and interested.

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Dissolution of Partnership.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Partnership existing between W. A. AKER and WILLIAM H. COOK is this day mutually dissolved. All claims against the firm prior to date must be presented to William H. Cook. Debts due the firm must be paid to him.
Bloomfield, December 8, 1888.
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